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Meeting convened under paragraph 22(d)
of the Terms of Reference of the
International Copper Study Group
Geneva, 23 and 24 January 1992

Report by the UNCTAD secretariat

1. The Secretary-General of UNCTAD, acting on behalf of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in accordance with paragraph 22(d) of the Terms of Reference of the International Copper Study Group, invited those States and intergovernmental organizations that had already notified their provisional or definitive acceptance of the Terms of Reference and other States that had attended the United Nations Conference on Copper, 1988, to meet on 23 and 24 January 1992 to decide whether to put the Terms of Reference into force provisionally or definitively. This meeting took place at the Palais des Nations, Geneva.

2. The following States, and the intergovernmental organization, which had notified their acceptance of the Terms of Reference, were represented at the meeting: Belgium, Chile, China, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Spain, the United States of America and the European Economic Community. The following States, which had attended the United Nations Conference on Copper, 1988, were also represented: Austria, Canada, Indonesia, Japan, Morocco, Russian Federation, Sweden, Thailand, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Zambia.

3. The meeting was chaired by representatives of the UNCTAD Secretary-General. Mr. C. Fortin, Deputy to the Secretary-General of UNCTAD and Director of the UNCTAD Commodities Division, welcomed the participants on behalf of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, and recalled that at the meeting on copper held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on 7-8 November 1991, it had been agreed that the International Copper Study Group should be established in the very near future and that to this end the depositary should convene the present meeting to put the Terms of Reference into force (the decision is contained in document TD/COPPER/16).

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4. As of 23 January 1992 the following States and intergovernmental organization had already notified their acceptance of the Terms of Reference: Belgium, Chile, China, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Spain, the United States of America and the European Economic Community. These 17 countries accounted for 54.37 per cent of world copper trade. Once Canada, Japan and Zambia joined the Group, the trade coverage would be 77.86 per cent.

5. The representative of Germany informed the meeting that his country had deposited the previous day the instrument of provisional acceptance of the Terms of Reference of the International Copper Study Group and indicated that this had been done with the proviso that Germany would obtain full membership of the Group as soon as the necessary constitutional procedure had been completed.

6. The meeting adopted unanimously the decision TD/COPPER/17/Rev.1 annexed to the present report (see annex I), each of the States and the intergovernmental organization listed in the annex to that decision having indicated their concurrence. Thus the International Copper Study Group was established and its Terms of Reference were definitively put into force.

7. It was agreed that the Secretary-General of UNCTAD should, as provided for in the Terms of Reference, convene the inaugural meeting of the Group at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, and it was requested that the meeting should take place before 1 July 1992. The duration of the meeting should be five working days, in light of the draft provisional agenda agreed for the meeting, as contained in annex II of this report.

8. The representative of Zambia reaffirmed his country's decision to join the Group but explained that the necessary internal procedures had not yet been completed. The representative of Canada informed the meeting that his country was likely to complete the internal procedures for acceptance by the time the inaugural meeting of the Group took place. The representative of Japan indicated that his government had made budgetary provisions for its participation in the Group. Referring to certain amendments to the Terms of Reference, which he had circulated informally, he said that the proposed amendment concerning the relations of the Group with the Common Fund for Commodities appeared to be acceptable to the members of the Group. Discussions on the proposed amendment concerning the legal personality of the Group were continuing.

9. The representative of Chile presented his Government's offer to host the headquarters of the Group in Santiago, Chile, and circulated informally a note on the "Elements in favour of the establishment of the headquarters of the International Copper Study Group in Chile". The representative of the European Economic Community reaffirmed the interest of the Community in hosting the Group and stated that within four weeks it would issue a concrete proposal for locating the headquartes in one of its member States.

10. An initial exchange of views took place on the provisional draft Rules of Procedure of the International Copper Study Group, as contained in document

TD/B/C.1/PM/COPPER/3, and on proposed amendments by the United States of America to these rules. It was agreed that members should send their views on the draft rules and the amendments thereto to the UNCTAD secretariat before the inaugural meeting so that they could be circulated to the members of the Group.

ANNEX I

DECISION

The Governments of the States, and the intergovernmental organization, listed in the annex to the present decision,

Acting pursuant to paragraph 22(d) of the Terms of Reference of the International Copper Study Group,

Having met in Geneva on 23 and 24 January 1992,

Decide, in accordance with paragraph 22(d), to put the Terms of Reference of the International Copper Study Group into force definitively among themselves in whole as of 23 January 1992.

Annex

Belgium/Luxembourg
Chile
China
Finland
France
Germany
Greece
Italy
Netherlands
Norway
Peru
Philippines
Poland
Portugal
Spain
United States of America

European Economic Community

23 January 1992

ANNEX II

INTERNATIONAL COPPER STUDY GROUP
Inaugural meeting
Geneva, ... 1992
Item 3 of the provisional agenda

DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening of the inaugural meeting
2. Election of the presiding officer
3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
4. Opening remarks by members and observers
5. Overall discussion of the market situation for copper
6. Establishment of the Standing Committee and other committees or other subsidiary bodies and assignment of tasks to them
7. Work programme of the Group; activities and priorities
8. Adoption of the rules of procedure
9. Proposed amendments to the Terms of Reference
10. Location of the headquarters of the Group
11. Arrangements for the appointment of the Secretary-General of the Group
12. Administrative and financial matters:
    - (a) Initial staffing
    - (b) Secretariat facilities
    - (c) Arrangements for the preparation of the headquarters agreement
    - (d) Adoption of an initial budget for 1992 and estimates for 1993, and assessment of contributions
13. Election of other officers
14. Arrangements for future meetings
15. Other business
16. Record of decisions of the meeting

NB: Agenda item 7 might be referred to an industry advisory panel.
Agenda items 8 to 12 and 14 might be referred to the Standing Committee for its consideration and preparation of draft decisions for adoption by the Group.